PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF PV PANELS

Alken Engineering Limited

Unit 3, Thornsett Trading Estate
Birch Vale
High Peak
SK22 1AH

DESIGN STATEMENT

GOA Ref: P0038

SEPT 2011

Graham Oates Associates Planning
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This planning & design statement has been prepared to support a planning application for the installation of PV (Solar) panels onto an commercial building, Alken Engineering Limited, Unit 3, Thornsett Trading Estate, Birch Vale, High Peak, SK22 1AH.

2. THE APPLICATION SITE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

SITE CONTEXT

2.1 The application site is a commercial steel fabrication unit.

2.2 The building is 2 years old.

2.3 It must be noted that the installation of solar panels to the south facing internal roof slope and is energy saving measure.

3. LAYOUT, DESIGN AND SCALE.

3.1 The layout is for the installation of 199 solar panels to the south facing roof slope of the commercial building to utilise solar gains to better serve the energy usages of the existing company.

3.2 The design is a simple roof covering – installation guideline are enclosed within this planning application.

3.3 The scale will remain as existing with the building or roof not being extended in anyway.

3.4 The ridge height will remain as existing.

4. APPEARANCE

4.1 A visual study of Birch Vale and the surrounding villages was undertaken. This informed the proposals in terms of scale, mass, architecture and materials.

4.2 The installation of the PV panels have been designed harmoniously with the sites surroundings.

In turn the proposal will blend seamlessly within its surrounding context, whilst still maintaining some individual character and proving fit for purpose.

4.3 A feasibility studies was undertaken by M3 Solar before advising Alken Engineering on the size of PV system to install.

Having provided us with electricity bills for the past two years, we were able to ascertain they currently uses upwards of 100,000kw/h per annum.

Given that each KW of Solar PV will produce 858kw/h per annum, we would have had to install a 110KWp PV system in order for it to have fully provided for Alken Engineering demands.

However, in light of the Feed In Tariffs for installations over 50KW, it was agreed that Alken Engineering should install a 50KW PV system.

In addition to this decision, and given the location of the install, it was agreed that we would use a retrofitted PV system, thereby reducing the impact it had on the surrounding area.

5. LANDSCAPING

5.1 Landscaping will not be affected by the proposal.

6. ACCESS

6.1 Access will not be affected by the proposal.

8. SUMMARY

8.1 As the designers of the installation works, we have taken on board the context of this site and feel that the proposal is justified.

8.2 This project represents an opportunity to install energy saving methods whilst respecting the surrounding context.